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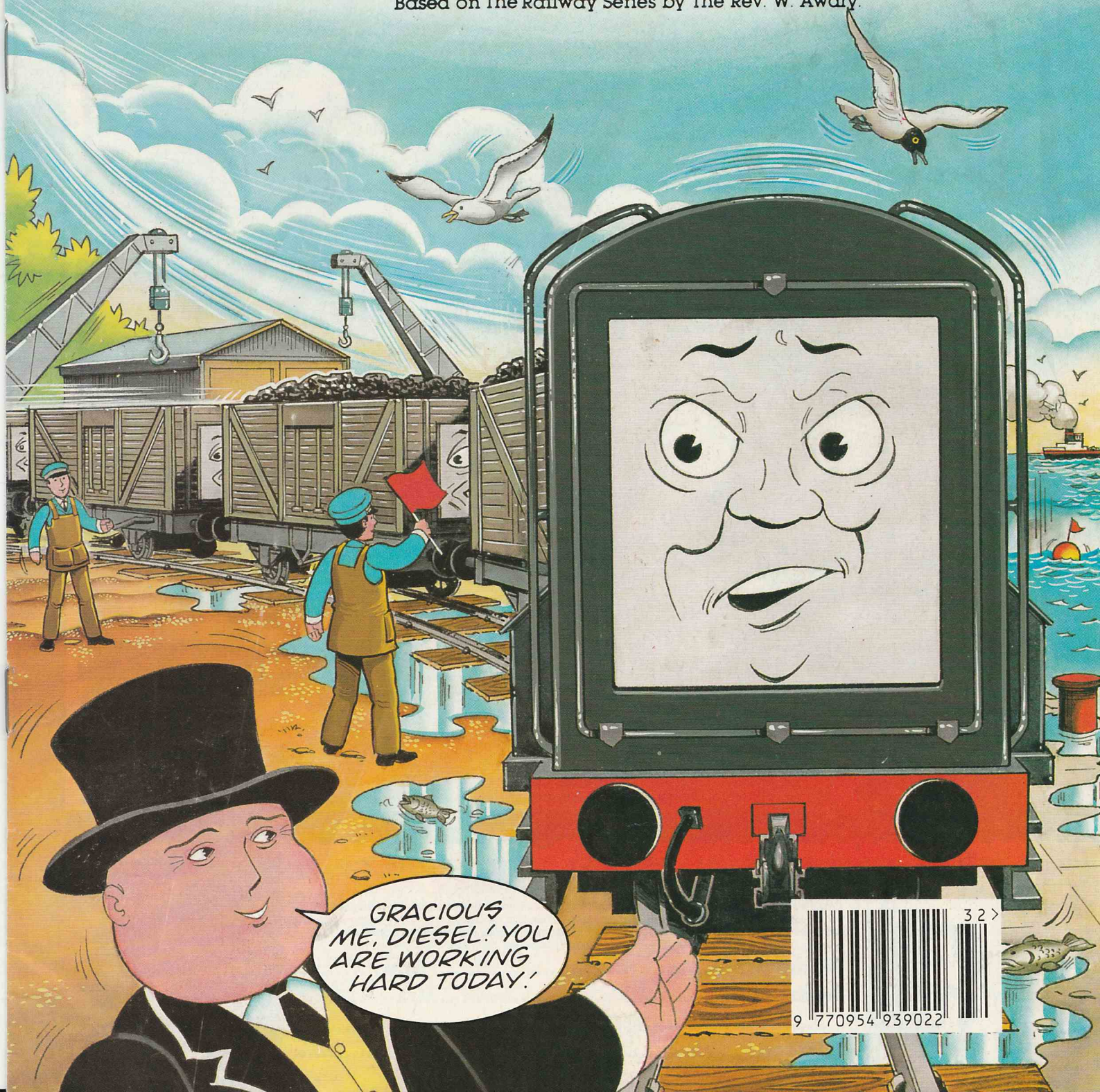
17th August 1991
No 100 50p

Win a splendid prize inside...

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



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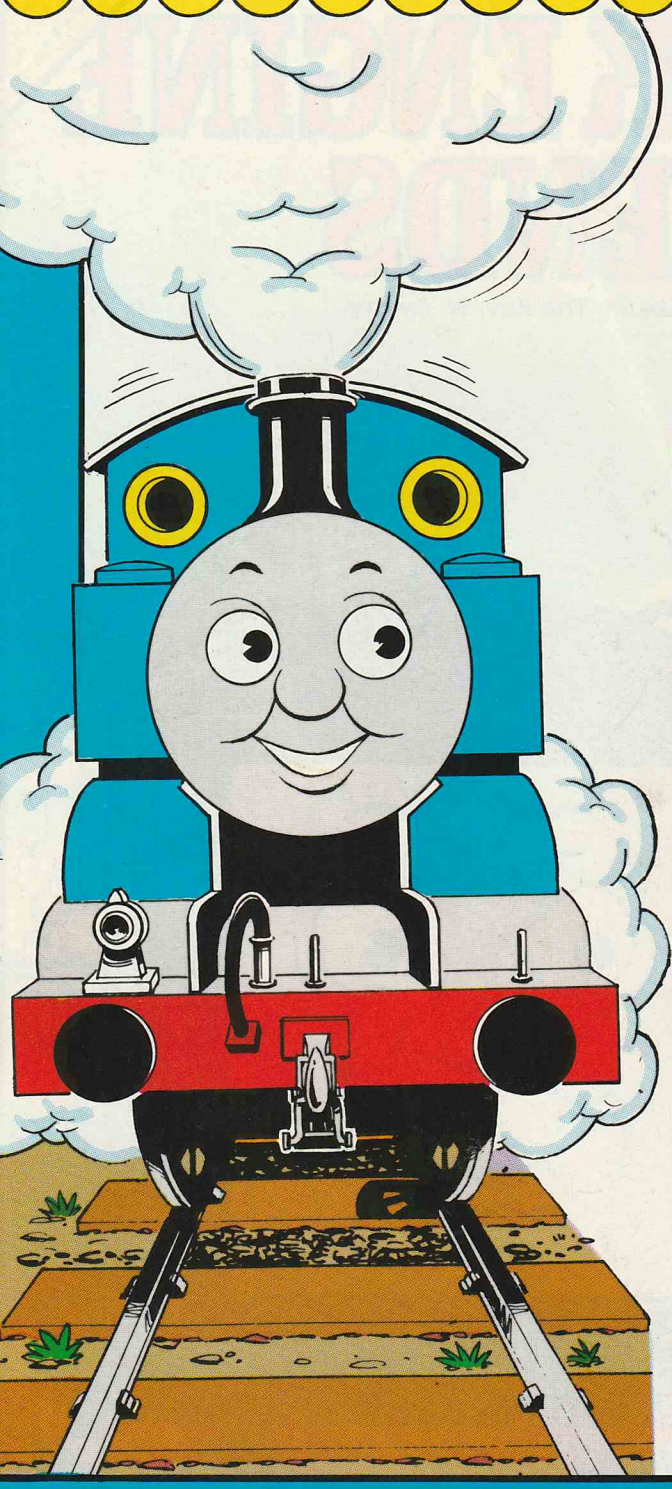
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Diesel and Daisy are two of the diesel engines that work on the Island of Sodor! In the story that begins on the next page, something very unusual happens down at the Big Harbour Yard and the Fat Controller has to call on their help! Don't miss our second story either – when Gordon forgets that his timetable has been changed! Oh dear, that will never do! Peep! Peep!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

In this splendid issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**, you can be the proud winner of a brand new range of **Thomas Miniature Adventure Playsets** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.* Turn to page 8 for details!

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In our next issue: Henry causes a traffic jam!

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

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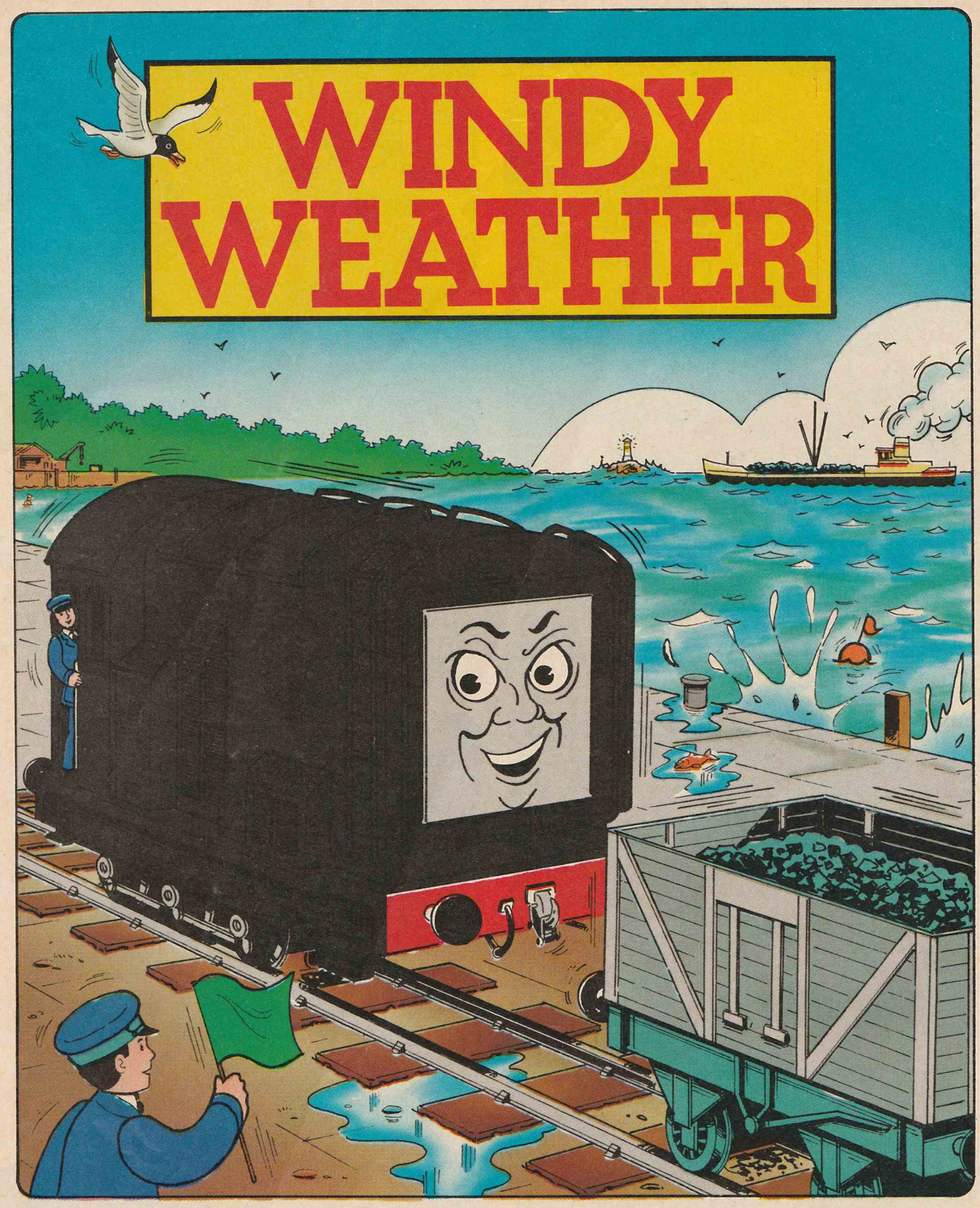
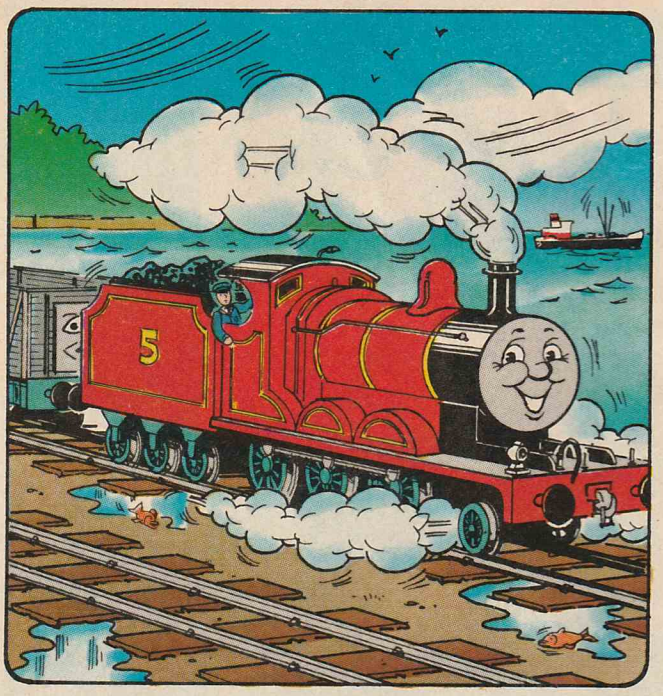
ABC

A listen and look story!

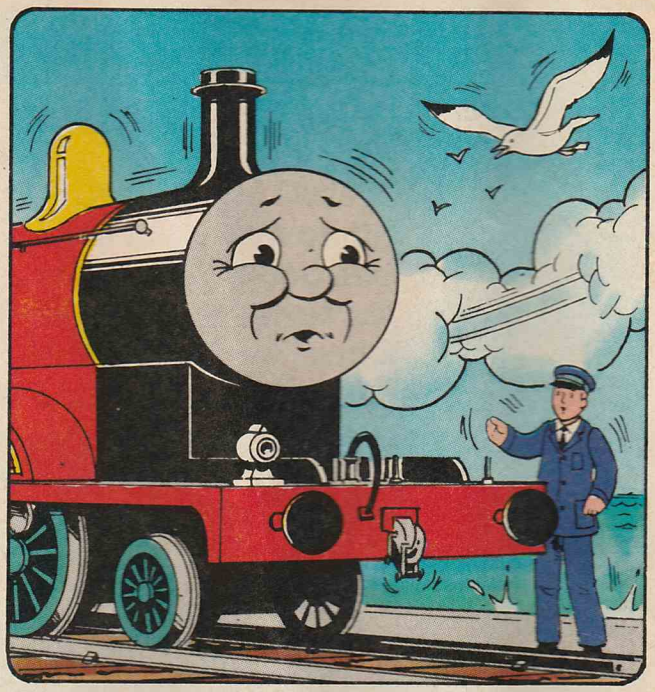


1. Down at the Big Harbour, ships come and go all of the time. Many ships bring coal from the mainland for the steam engines. Without coal, they cannot run.

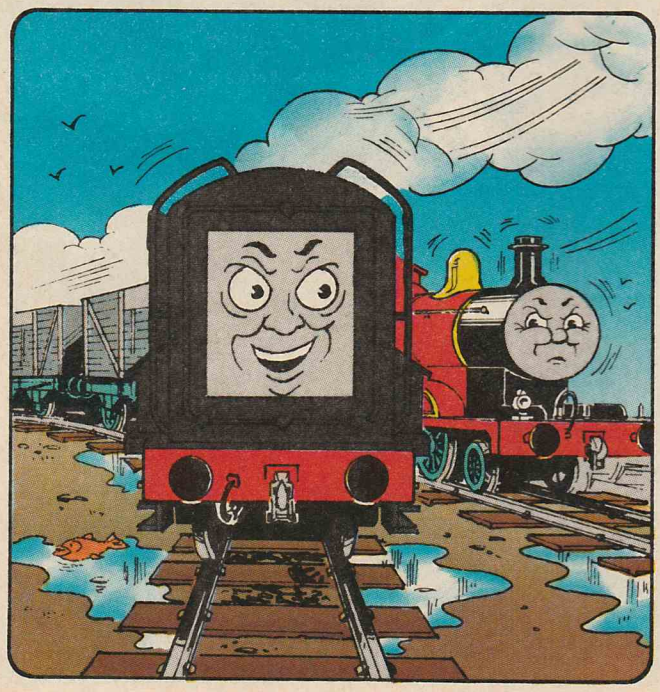
2. One week, severe gales blew day and night. The water was so rough, the ships could not unload their coal. "I don't need coal to work!" boasted Diesel.



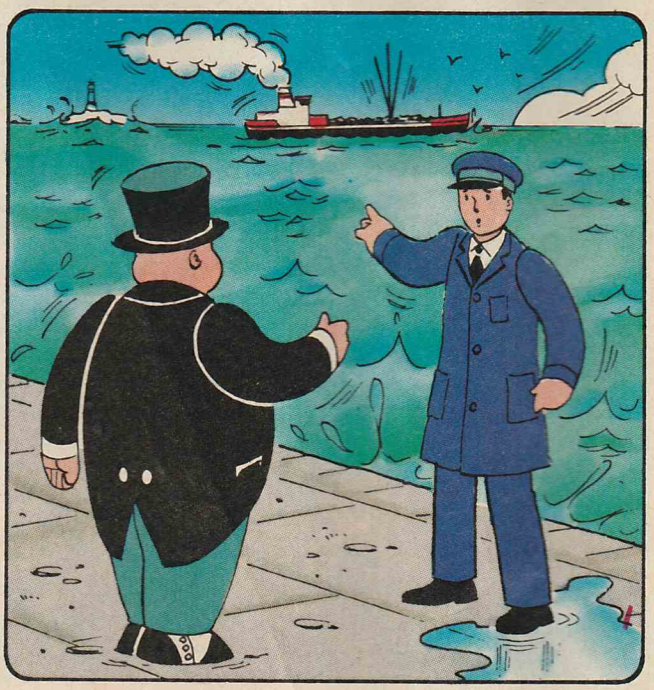
3. Meanwhile, James had gone to the Big Harbour to collect a consignment of coal. But, upon arrival, he found the coal ship had turned back.



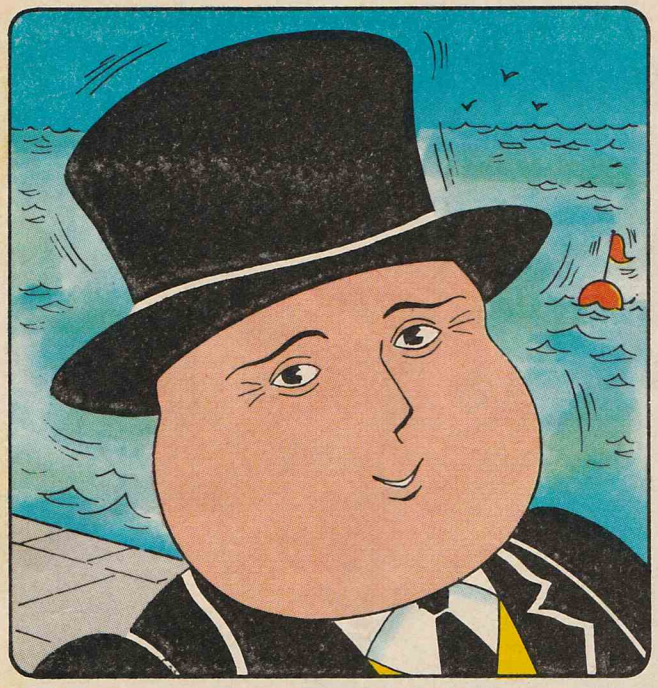
4. "This is very worrying," said James to his driver. "If we use up all the coal stocks on the island, the railway will grind to a halt!" "I won't!" laughed Diesel.



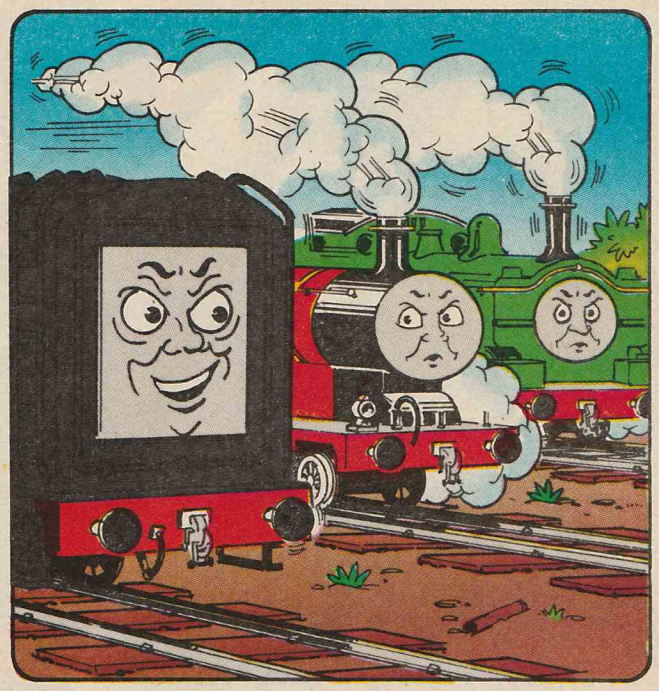
5. "You won't catch me grinding to a halt," sniggered Diesel, as he slid up beside James. "My diesel fuel will keep me working long after you've stopped!"



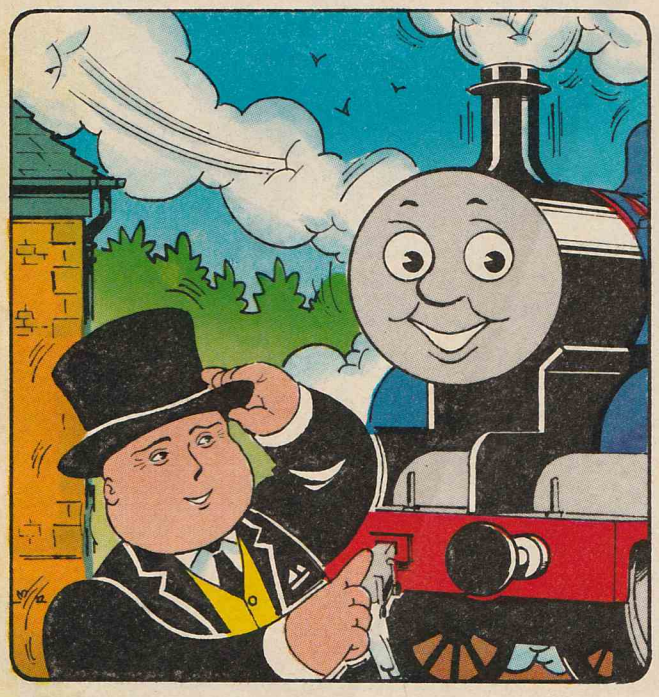
6. Just then, the Fat Controller arrived and spoke to the Harbour Stationmaster. "The coal stocks are exhausted," he said. "I shall re-arrange the railway schedule!"



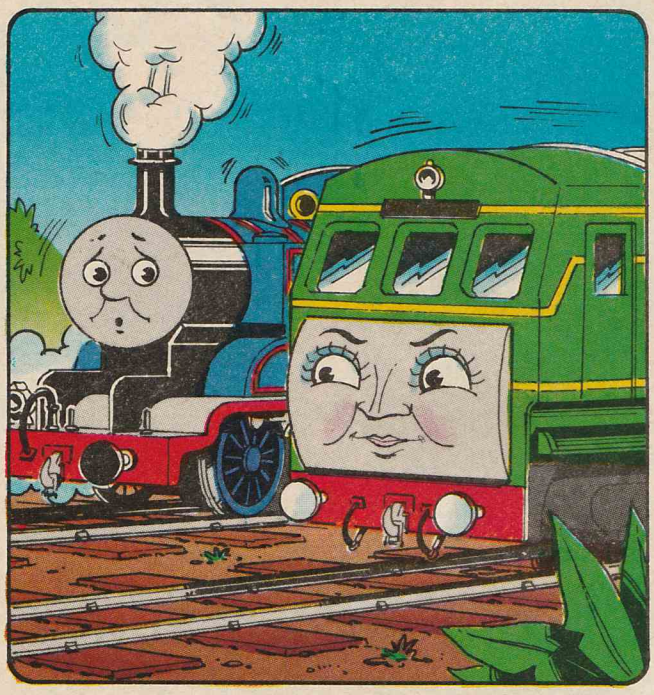
7. "There is only one thing to do!" continued the Fat Controller. "I will ask the diesel engines to undertake more duties until the coal ships can get through again!"



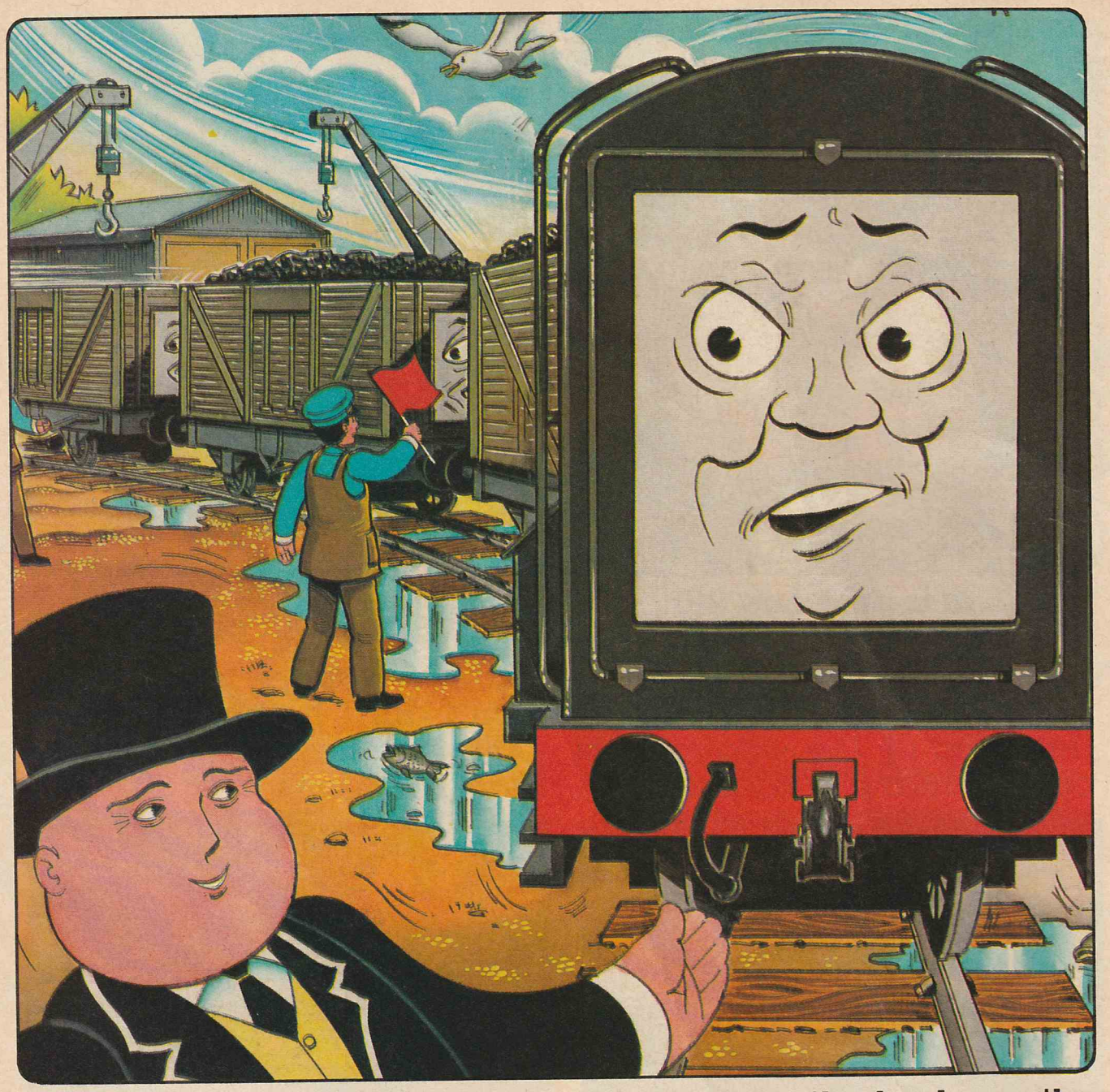
8. When Diesel was told, he showed off more than ever. "Now do you see how important I am?" he hissed to the other engines. "Get out of my way! I'm busy!"



9. That afternoon, when Thomas returned from his journey, the Fat Controller was waiting. "You have worked hard, Thomas," he said. "Daisy will take over now."



10. Daisy was very pleased, "I am a very special diesel railcar!" she said. "The Fat Controller knows how smoothly I carry passengers. I'm so thoroughly modern!"



11. But the bad gales continued for several more days. So the Fat Controller asked Daisy to help pull trucks, too. She was not at all happy about that. "These trucks are far too dirty!" she complained. "I am far too clean for this sort of work!" Daisy made an awful fuss, but it was an emergency and her help was needed!

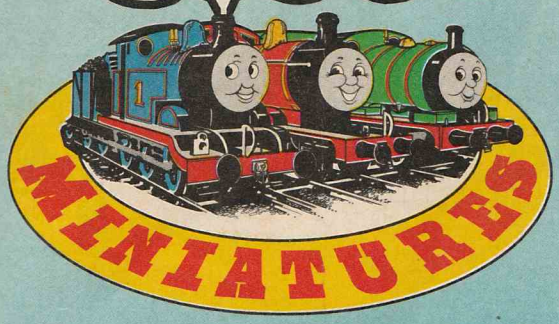
12. Down at the harbour, the extra work was also making Diesel very cross. Eventually, the gales stopped and the coal ships could dock. "Splendid!" said the Fat Controller. "Things can now run normally!" Daisy and Diesel were relieved to have help again . . . it had been harder work than they had imagined!

THE END

In our next issue: Henry and the level crossing!

ADVERTISEMENT

NEW



Look out for the new miniature range of Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends now available in your local toy shop or store.

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

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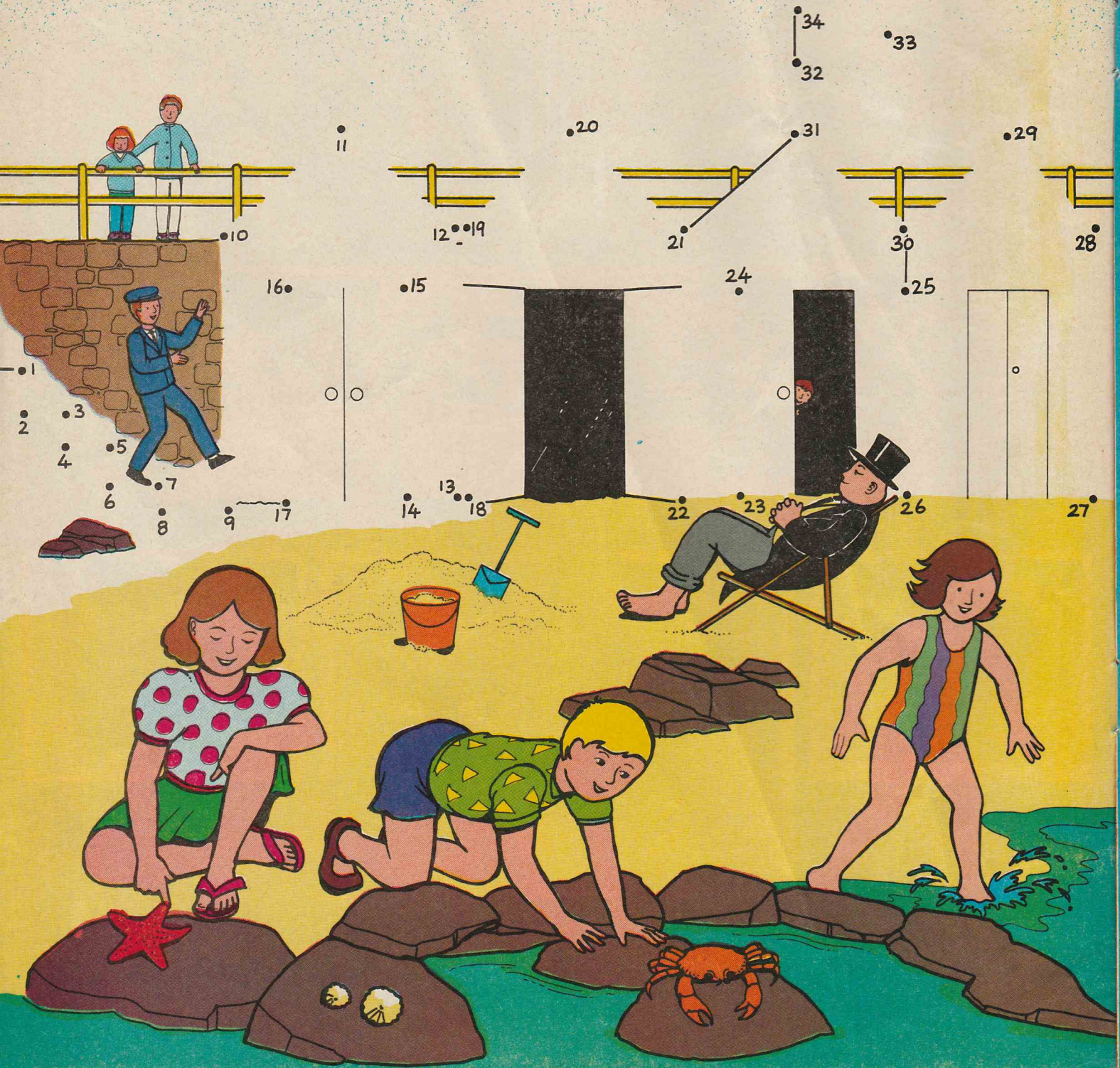
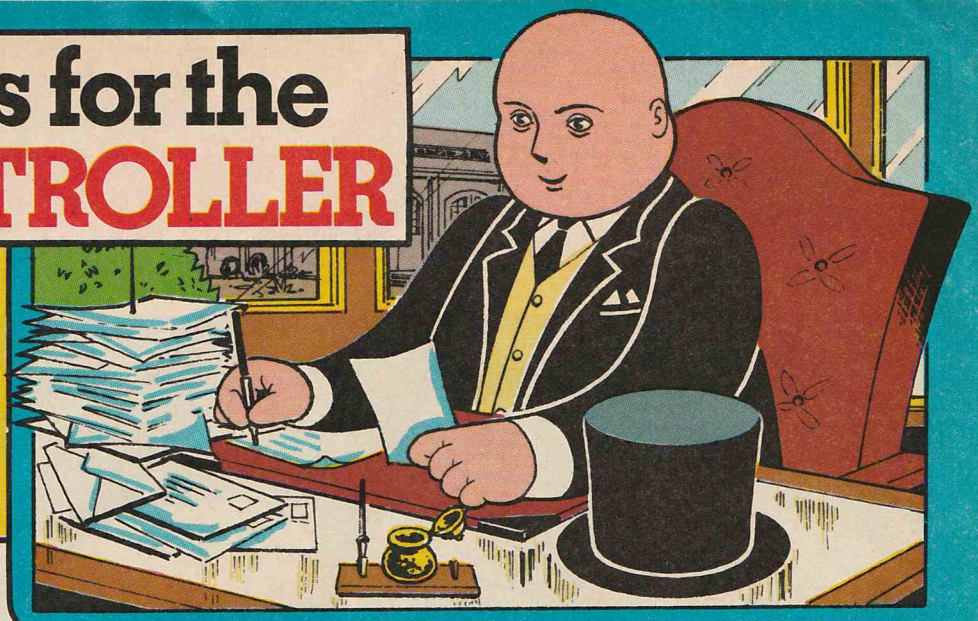
JOIN THE DOTS!

What can you find down by the seaside?
Join the dots first and then decide!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I had a lovely time when my nannie and grandad took me to see lots of really old steam trains at Hereford Railway Station. They were very big and noisy! Trevor the Traction Engine was there! I like Trevor because he is friendly and helpful and he loves children!

Love from **Alexander,** aged 3.

Upon my soul! I do agree! Trevor is a very friendly engine and I do like to invite him to fêtes and special outings because he is very popular with all the children on the Island of Sodor!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid remote control **Thomas the Tank Engine** from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

MY FAVOURITE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite engine is Ben, because he has the same name as me! Whenever I see a picture of him, or watch him on my **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** video, I jump up and down and shout his name out loud! I always enjoy all of his adventures!

Love from **Ben,** aged 2.

*My, my . . . I must agree that Ben is a very splendid name indeed! However, I do hope that you are not quite as mischievous as Ben, **my** Saddle Tank Engine!*

GREAT RAILWAYS!

Dear Fat Controller,
My grandad took me to the Bluebell Railway to see all the big steam trains. It was great! I loved standing on the bridge watching them go underneath!

Love from **Alex.**

***Upon my soul!** The Bluebell Railway is one of the finest railways I have ever travelled on! There are so many different and interesting things to see, and all the engines look very splendid indeed!*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

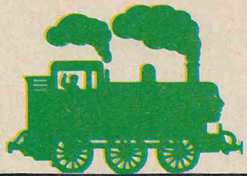
Birthday greetings go out to the following . . .
Louise Fellows (35477), Christopher Seaman (26456), James Maltby (26666), Sean Toll, Peter Keenlyside (2489), Emma Gray, Charlotte Harper, Daniel Barrowdale (29981), Elizabeth Joy Clarke (31063), Gavin M. Creek, Tristan Goss, Craig Wallace (33180), Christopher Jones.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt

the Fat Controller.



Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

100th Celeb

Which engine can you see?

Who is flying in the sky?

Point to the Fat Controller!

What is he holding?

Can you see the guard?

Point to the picnic!

How many children are

What do you think they

ebration!

guard?

e!

en are at the party?

k they are celebrating?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Past the campsite!

COLOURING TIME!

**Deceitful Diesel can be a frightful sight,
But you can colour him in bold and bright!**

COMPETITION!

SPLENDID PRIZES TO BE WON!

This is the first in a series of fabulous competitions featuring splendid new toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.* The first **12** lucky winners will receive a splendid **6-piece Thomas Miniature Adventure Playset**, and **24** runners up will recieve a **4- piece Thomas Miniature Adventure Playset.** Each miniature playset has an interchangeable base, to create different track layouts. Selected layouts include features such as moving level crossings, turning windmills and rotating turntables. Also, every set comes complete with it's own highly detailed minature engine complete with roller wheels. Both sets are available from most high street stores and selected retail outlets.

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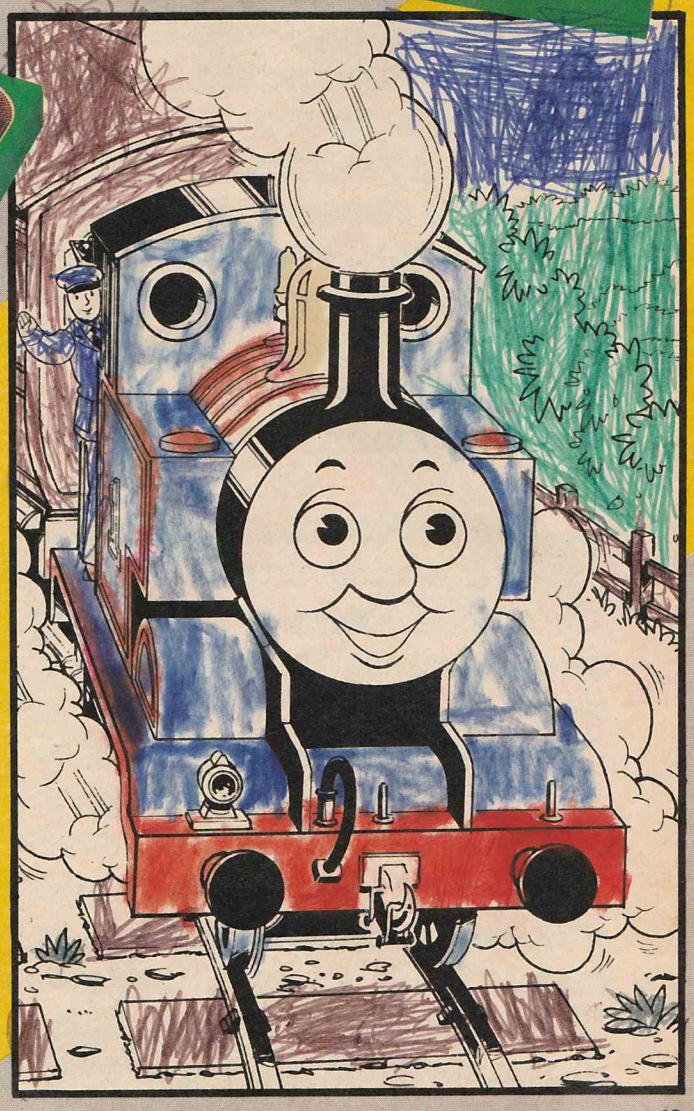


How to enter:

Colour in the splendid picture on this page as carefully and brightly as you can. Fill in your entry form and send this page to:
Thomas/ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Name .....Age.....
Address .....
.....
.....
My favourite Thomas story is.....
because .....

Closing date: 10th September 1991

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd, Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd and Marvel Comics Ltd. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

A read-aloud story!

The Power Cut

At night, the yard at the Main Station is lit by tall floodlights. With the floodlights on, the engines can carry on working after the sun has gone down.

One day there was a strong wind which blew the leaves off the trees and shook the engine shed roof.

"Oh, dear!" moaned Henry. "It's so difficult pulling into this strong wind!"

"Don't be silly," said Gordon. "A bit of wind shouldn't trouble a steam engine!"

But Henry's fireman was worried, so he shut off Henry's steam and Henry was left on a siding to have a rest.

The wind howled around the floodlights that night but the engines continued to work.

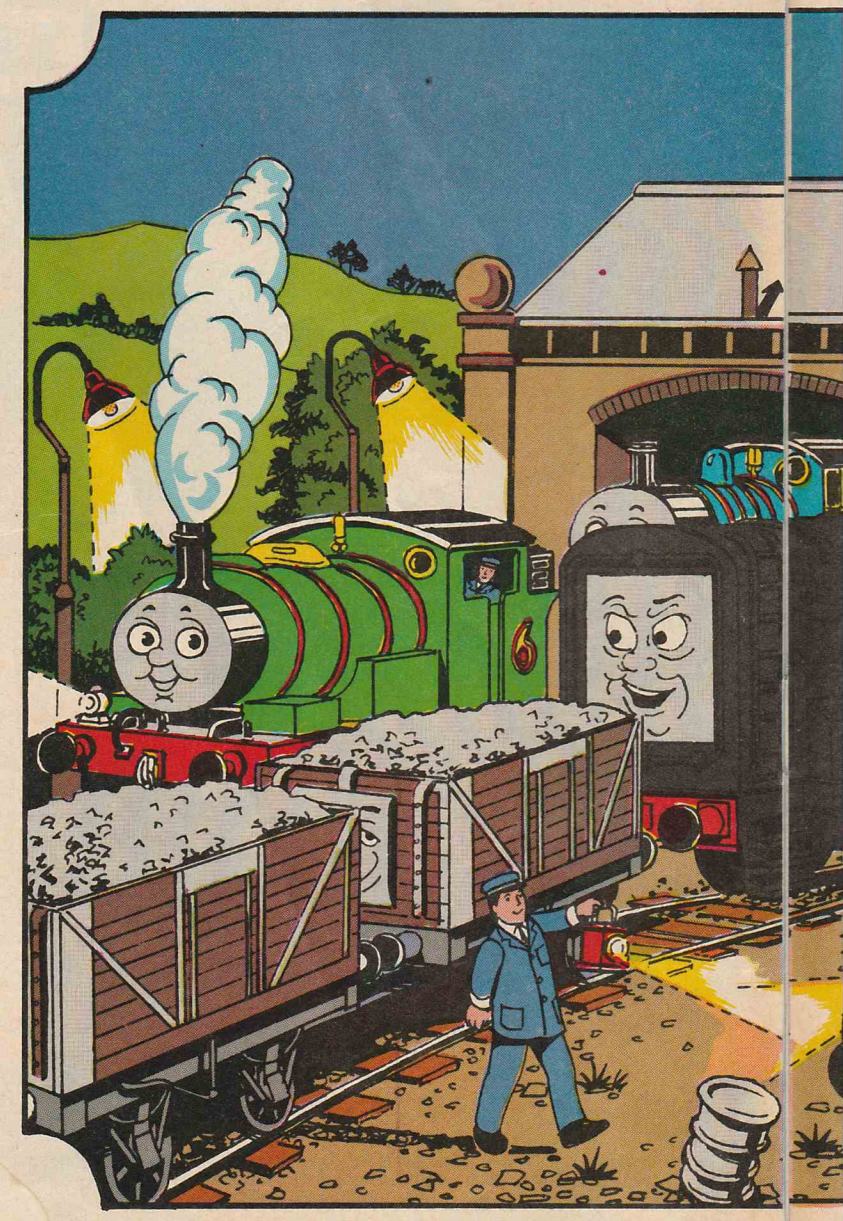
The Stationmaster had just gone into his hut for a cup of tea, when the yard fell into darkness. The engines all stopped work!

"I can't see!" cried James.

"What happened?" asked Thomas.

"There's been a power cut," shouted the Stationmaster, as he hurried back into the yard. "The electricity wires must have blown down in the wind, but don't worry. We will find another way of lighting the yard!"

The Stationmaster quickly distributed extra hand-held lamps to all the staff and made sure each engine had a lamp attached to its buffer beam. Now the engines could carry on working, but they had to move slowly and carefully.

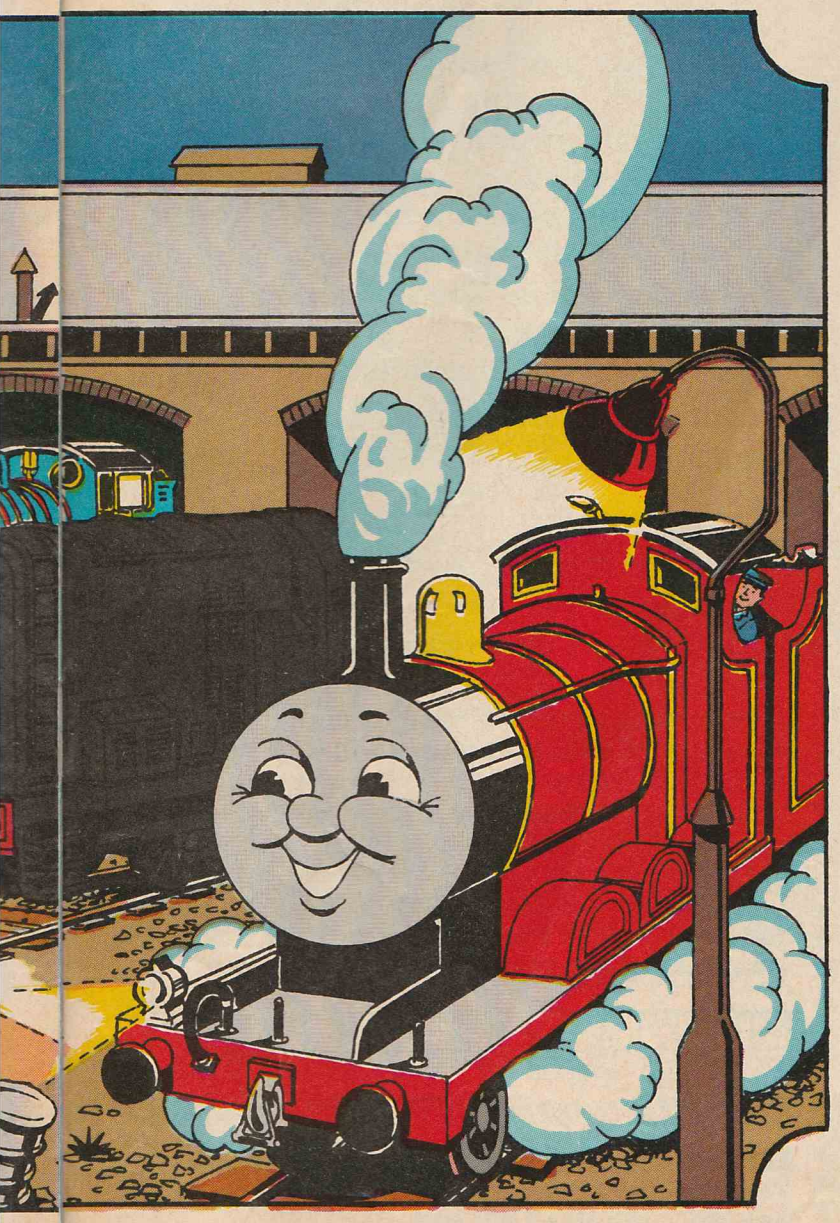


"The yard looks very pretty," said Thomas as he watched the twinkling lights bobbing about from his shed.

"Just mind you don't bump into me," James grumbled to everyone.

The engines at work in the yard were all very busy, except for Diesel. He was moaning and groaning on a siding.

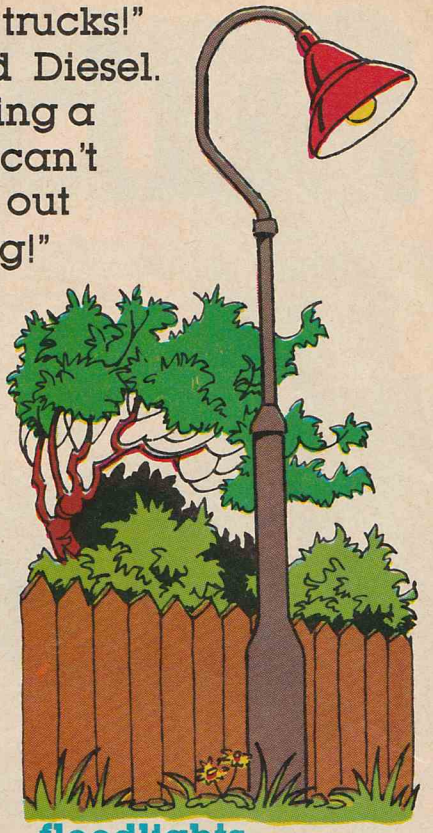
"Whatever is the matter?" asked Percy.



"It's these trucks!" compained Diesel. "They're being a nuisance! I can't move them out of this siding!"

"Perhaps they're too heavy!" suggested Percy.

"Pah," snorted Diesel. "Nothing is too heavy for me!"



floodlights

Just at that moment, the floodlights came back on. the engineers had managed to reconnect the electricity supply again.

"Hooray!" cheered the engines together.

Then Percy began to laugh.

"What are you laughing at?" snapped Diesel.

"You're not coupled to your trucks at all, diesel!" laughed Percy. "You've been trying to pull an old sleeping steam engine!"

Well, I couldn't see in the dark!" muttered Diesel.

Now that the floodlights were working again, all the engines agreed that they were Really Useful.

THE END

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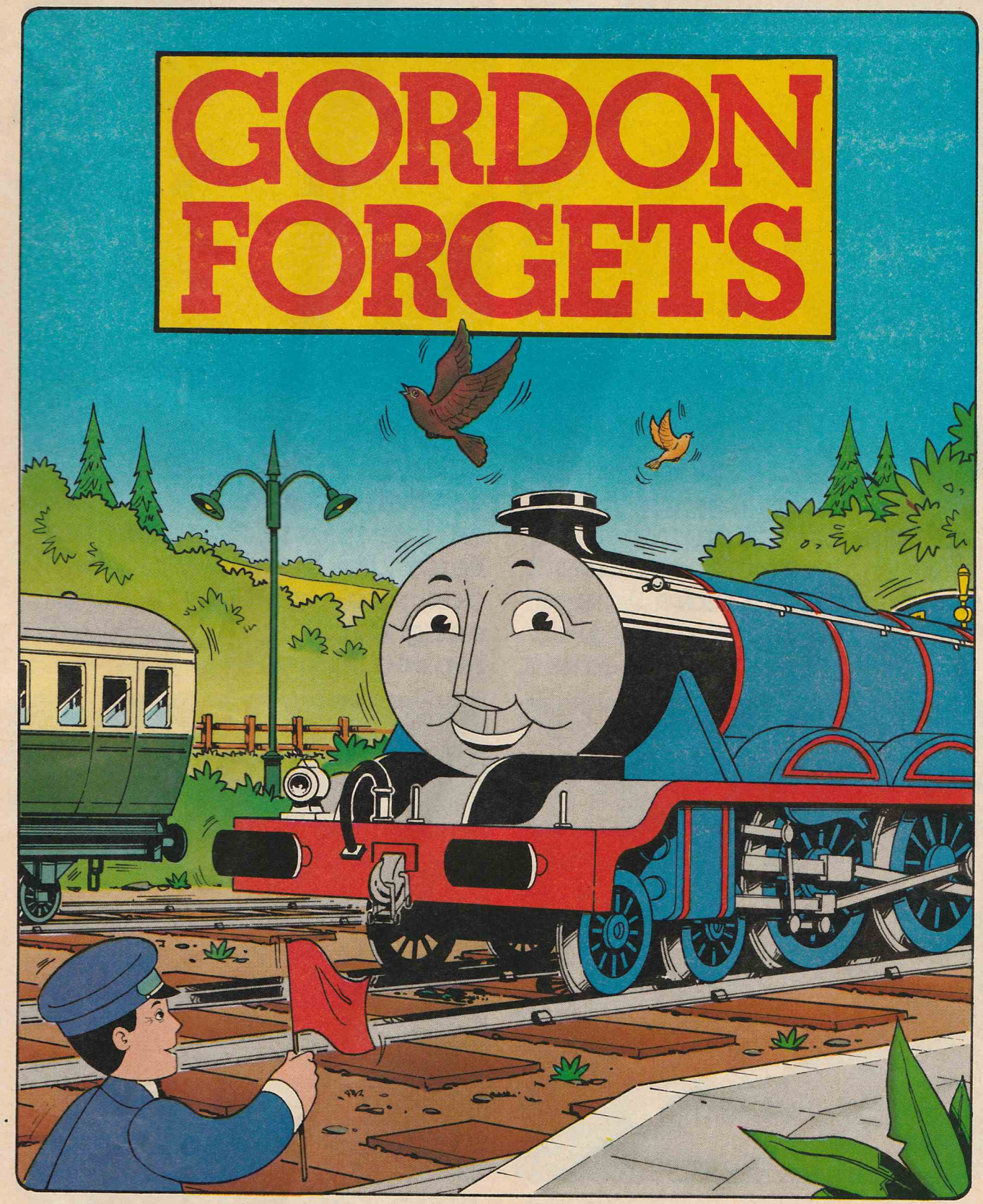
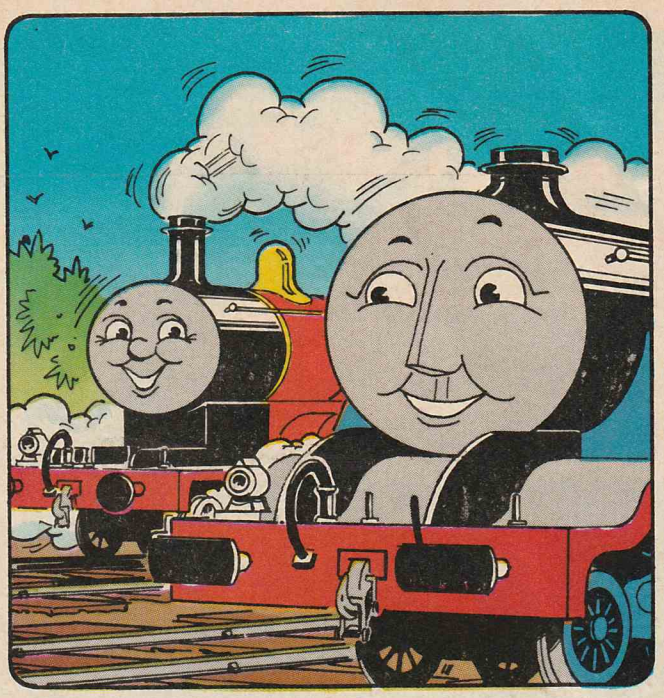
A listen and look story!

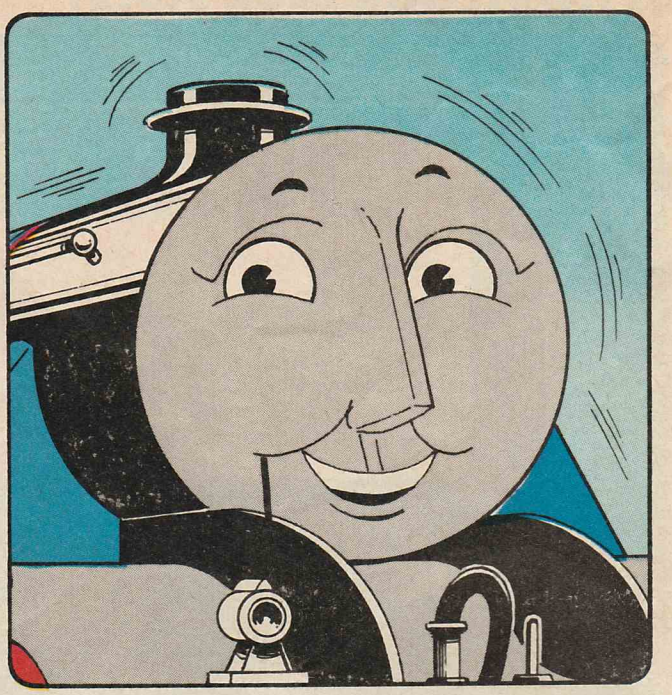


1. One morning Gordon was in the yard, waiting for his coaches. He waited a very long time. "The Express must not be late," thought Gordon.

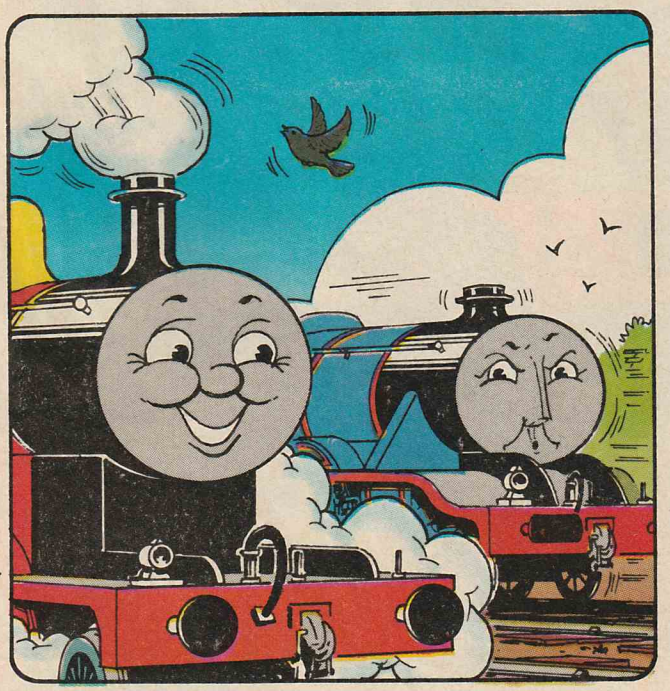
2. Gordon soon lost his temper. "Where are those unreliable tank engines?" he bellowed. "There must be an engine here who can do my shunting for me!"



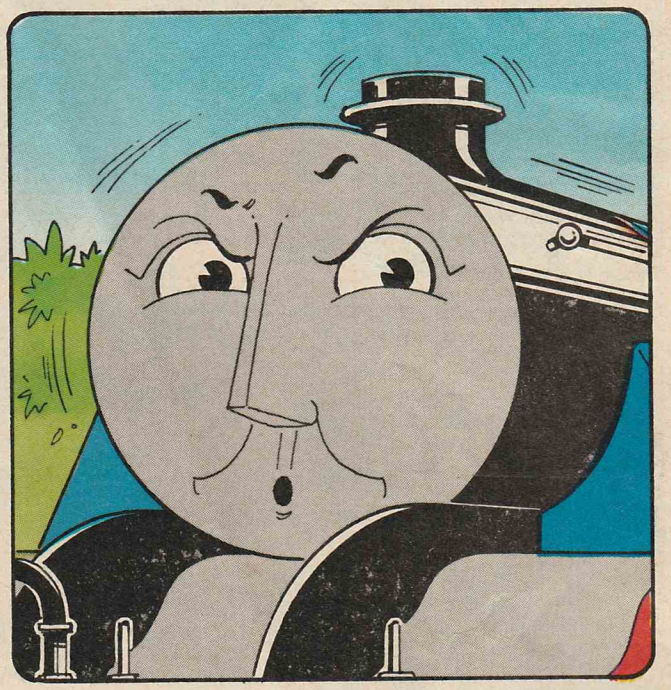
3. "Aah," said Gordon as he saw James. "You must be fetching my coaches!" "Sorry, Gordon," said James. "Not today. I have my own train and I'm already late!"



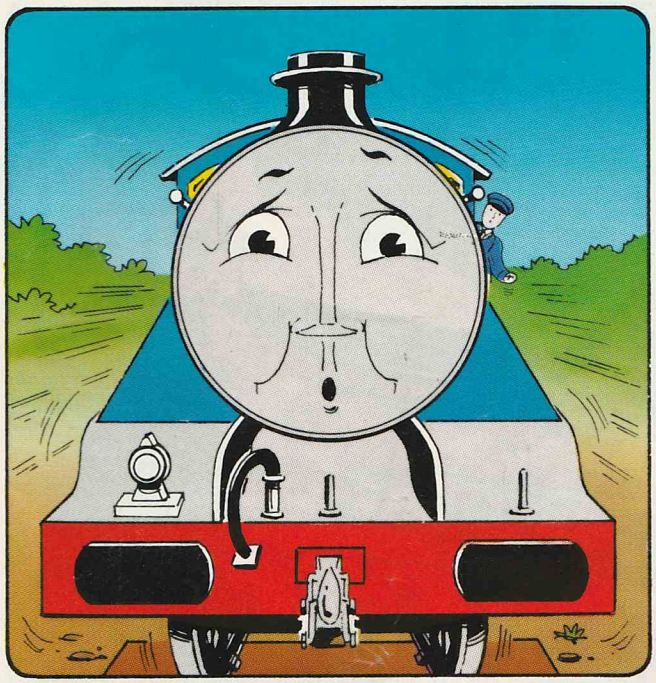
4. "Well, perhaps you can tell me where Thomas and Percy are hiding!" said Gordon, crossly. "They're delivering trucks to the harbour!" replied James.



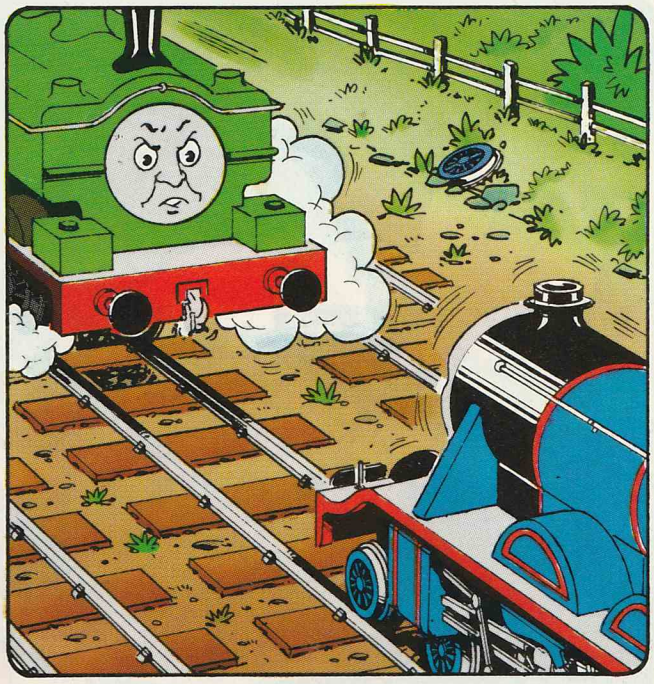
5. "Then who, may I ask, is here to do my shunting?" asked Gordon, impatiently. "Nobody," said James. "You'll just have to fetch your own coaches!"



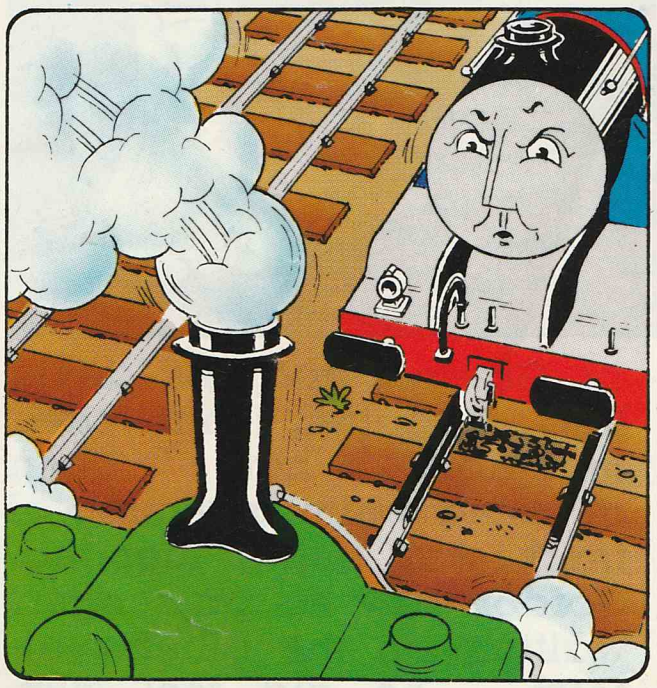
6. "What?" shouted Gordon. "Why it's an outrage! I'm a tender engine and I'm not designed to fetch coaches! I'm built to pull fine, important trains!"



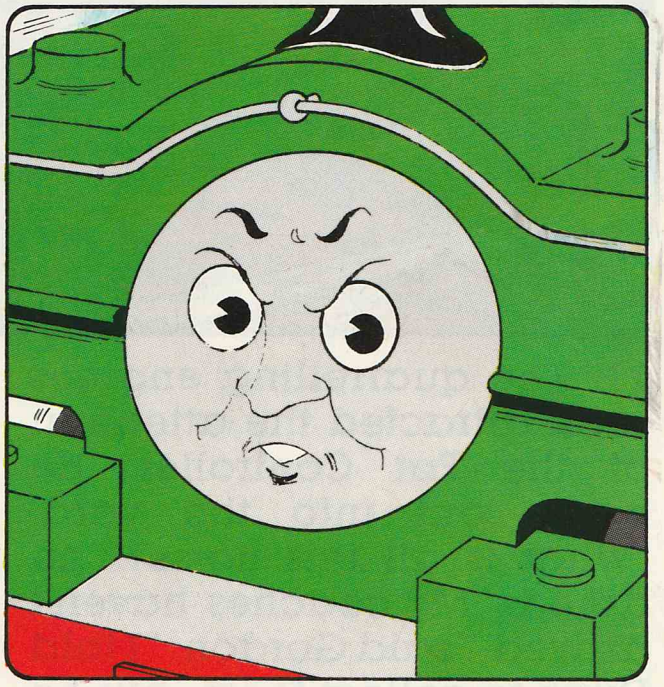
7. But James was already in the distance with his goods train. Gordon was left standing on his own once again. Just then, he saw Duck coming towards him.



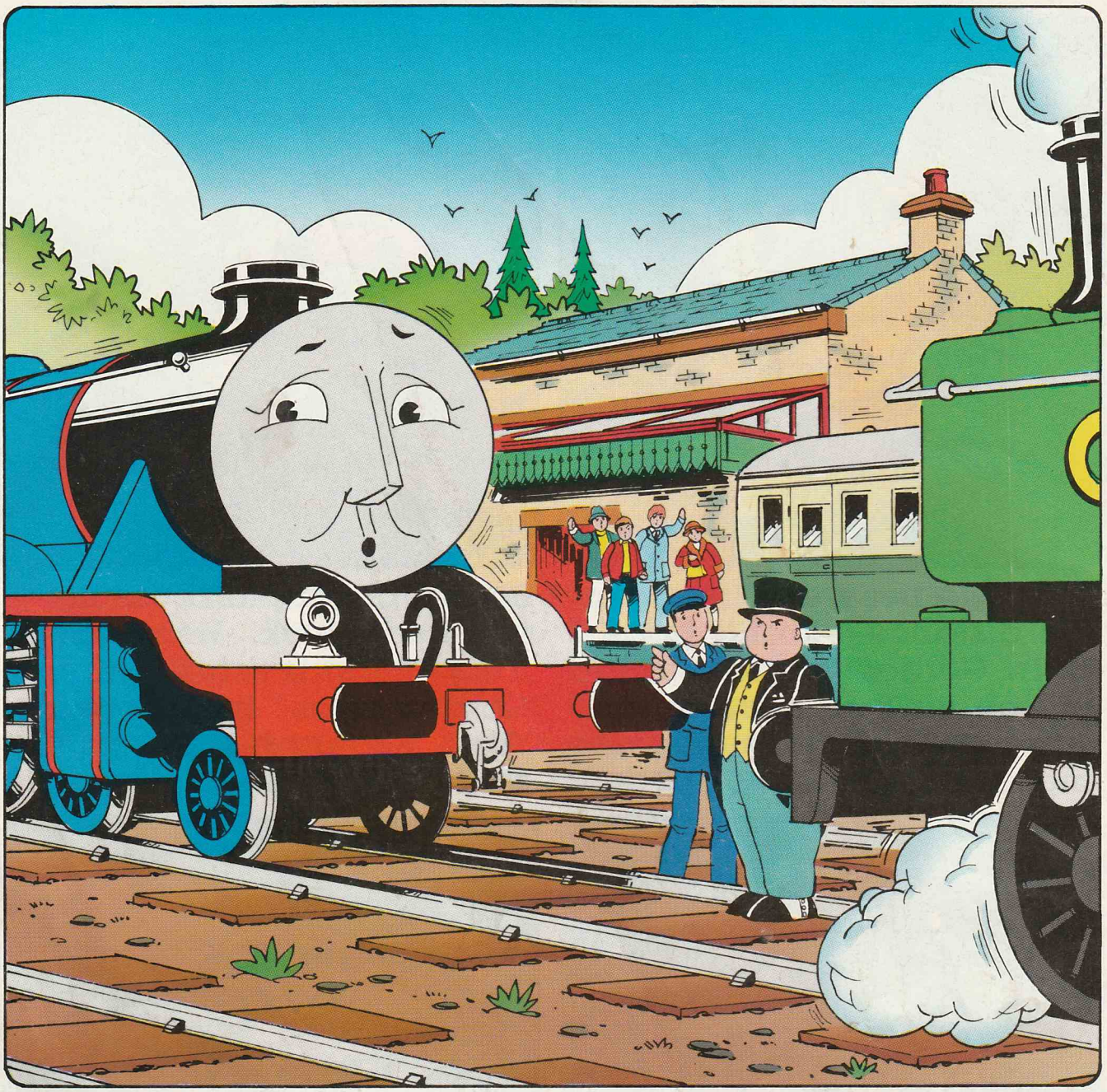
8. "Poop, poop! Excuse me!" whistled Duck. He had a long goods train and Gordon was in his way. "You shouldn't be here!" said Duck. "I need to pass!"



9. "Move over, Gordon," said Duck. "No, I am not moving until my coaches are brought," said Gordon. "Perhaps you can help me, Duck!"



10. "Poop, poop! Move over!" whistled Duck, loudly. "You're making me very late!" "No, you're make me late by not collecting my coaches," replied Gordon.



11. The quarrelling engines soon attracted the attention of the Fat Controller. He came out into the yard. "What is all this noise?" he asked. "My coaches haven't arrived," said Gordon. "I told Duck to collect them, but he wouldn't listen!" "Your coaches are waiting for you on the other platform," the Fat Controller told Gordon.

12. Gordon and his driver had forgotten that their timetable had been adjusted while a section of track was being mended. Gordon saw his passengers waiting on the other platform – he did feel silly. "Excuse me," peeped Duck, cheekily. Gordon moved out of Duck's way, then puffed quietly to the other platform.

THE END

In our next issue: Me first!